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Lent 2023: The Countdown Has Begun

PASTOR JEFF BROWNING

On February 22, the Resurrection community joined with Christians throughout the world in observing Ash Wednesday.

At our worship services and throughout the day, people came to take part in one of the most unique practices of people of faith. We received ashes on our foreheads, just as God's people have for thousands of years. The ashes symbolize penitence and mortality, an acknowledgment of our helplessness and need for God's mercy. The ashes are meant to capture the essence of what it means to be "only human."

As God tells us in the Biblical Book of Genesis, and as we reminded each other on Ash Wednesday, **Remember you were made from dust, and to dust you shall return.** As human beings, we are forced to come to grips with the fact that we are in a constant state of deterioration. Our lives in this world are temporary. Our time is short and fleeting.

But Ash Wednesday is ultimately a day of hope. The ashes on our forehead are purposefully made in the shape of a cross. The cross of Jesus Christ is the focal point of Ash Wednesday. The cross is an eternal reminder that Jesus lovingly laid down his life to set us free from sin, death, and all that it means to be "only human."

Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of

the Lenten season, forty days that culminate in the celebration of Jesus rising from the dead, on Easter Sunday. Jesus changed everything for us when He emerged from His tomb that very first Easter morning. He gave us a new life, changing our span of existence from temporary to forever. Just like Jesus, we too will rise again, and we will live forever.

The Lent season begins with a focus on our mortality but concludes with a celebration of our immortality through Jesus.

And the Lenten journey continues throughout this month of March. Lent is meant to be a time of solemn reflection. We are invited to use this time to turn and put our focus squarely on Jesus Christ and His great love for us. He willingly endured suffering and death for our sake. We recognize that we have a tendency to fall away and turn away from God. Our priorities become askew. Our focus turns to so many other things, but often not to God.

But God never stops calling us back. This truth is captured again in God's Word, as recorded by the prophet, Joel: **Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful and abounding in steadfast love.** In Lent, we give thanks because we remember that God always wants us to return to Him. We turn to the Savior who loves us more than anything, who loves

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Message from the President

LAURA BAUER

I am very excited to learn about all the great activities that have been planned for Resurrection’s 75th Anniversary year. A pig roast, a special service and dinner, and more—it is all worth enjoying and participating in! As new events are planned and ways to commemorate this milestone are announced, I encourage everyone to make a point to add them to their calendars as we celebrate with joy.

This anniversary has caused me to think about my connection to Resurrection. I first visited Resurrection shortly after moving to Garden City, around 1982. Despite attending a few services, I was not yet ready to join a church—my agnosticism left me feeling uncomfortable.

Fast forward about 10 years, after a new marriage and two baby girls, I began to attend with some regularity after my youngest Leslie was baptized on her first birthday at Resurrection. Many conversations with our now Emeritus Pastor Meyer later, I joyfully became a member of this wonderful congregation that has been so important in my life. From seeing my daughters confirmed, consecrating our civil marriage on our 10th wedding anniversary, to my parents’ vow renewals on their 55th anniversary, and then their funeral services, Resurrection has been the place—and the support—for many significant life events, in a way only a community of faith can.

This special place has also given me the opportunity to share my skills and desire to help others in so many ways. And I haven’t even mentioned the many people I have met, worked with, and found friendship with, over more than 25 years.

Yes, Resurrection is a special place, and whether you just started to attend services, or have been a member for many decades, you know that too. Let’s celebrate!!

Join Us As We Celebrate ... “Happy Birthday, Resurrection!”

Resurrection’s inaugural worship service, led by Pastor A. W. Brustat, was held 75 years ago on February 15, 1948. Worship services continued weekly for another ten years. meeting in the recreation room in the basement of the Knorr family residence, located at 19 St. James St. N, Garden City.

Many activities are being planned for the upcoming Diamond Anniversary to commemorate and celebrate all that God has done through our congregation over these past 75 years. We look forward to how God will use our ministries to accomplish His work in our community and beyond in the future.

All are welcome to join us as we worship each week and in these celebrations!

April 30, 2023

A Celebration of the Ministry and Music of Ed Dettling
Piano and Organ Concert with Ken Meyn and Ed Dettling
Celebratory Reception to Follow

August 6, 2023

First Annual Pig Roast and Picnic

October 1, 2023

Special Worship Service and Gala Celebration
With Honored Guests

Watch for more opportunities throughout 2023 as we thank God for 75 years of ministry at Resurrection. 

Lent 2023: The Countdown Has Begun

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us enough to lay down His life, and we remember what truly matters.

Perhaps you’ve been away from church for a while. Perhaps you haven’t been around as much as you like. Perhaps your routines became thrown off these past few years. Perhaps you’ve not made enough time for what’s most important.

Reprioritize. Remember. Return. His call is constant, and He always welcomes you back. Lent is the perfect opportunity to be renewed in faith and

life. Join us as we gather for worship throughout this season:

Weekend Worship Services—Sundays at 8:30, 9:45 and 11am; Saturdays at 5:30pm

Special Midweek Services—Wednesdays at 4:30pm throughout Lent (*Free suppers following every service*) 



Pastor Jeff Browning
Serves as Pastor
at Resurrection.



Beauty and the Beast

Whether reading the story, watching the animated movie, or seeing the show come to life on stage, this classic age-old tale teaches that true love is deeper than outward appearances.

We learn lessons from both main characters as Belle looks past the ghastly features of the Beast and grows to adore him, and we feel for the Beast when he sets Belle free because he realizes he cares more for her than himself. Coupled with vibrant costumes and award-winning music, this is a favorite that is always sure to win your heart.

This month, Chaminade High School recreates Disney's *Beauty and The Beast* on their Darby Players theatre stage. More importantly, three of Resurrection's very own teenage Youth Group members are part of the cast. Gretchen Murphy plays the part of Belle, and Natalie Sweeney and Kieran Cook are members of the dynamic ensemble.

"I've loved this show since I was little and am so excited to be part of the cast," Kieran Cook says. "It's an extremely close cast, and I'm very proud to be in it as my last high school production," reports Natalie Sweeney. Gretchen Murphy adds, "With our dedicated cast, lively orchestra, and amazing stage crew, this will be our best show yet!"

Show dates are: March 17, 18, and 24 at 7:30pm; March 19 and 25 at 2pm.

You can get tickets at chaminade-hs.org and click on Plays and Concerts. Tickets are \$10 each.

Come, Be Our Guest; you are sure to be entertained!

Review by Kim Murphy

(Don't) Give Up

As many people know, we at Resurrection provide a bi-monthly Christian worship service to the residents at the Dominican Village nursing home in Amityville. Over the past two years, we've had the opportunity to spend time getting to know the residents and have had the chance to worship together throughout the month.


Recently, I was speaking to the residents at the Dominican Village, and we were talking about the beginning of the Lenten season. Inevitably, the conversation turned toward a familiar question: "What are you giving up for Lent?" The answers varied, but after discussing this, we arrived at another, all too familiar question: What could we possibly give up that could compare to what Jesus gave up for us? Of course, the answer is nothing...which, fortunately, is exactly what Jesus asks of us in exchange for His love.

Jesus expects us to follow His commandments, to love one another, and to take care of one another, but His love for us is not contingent upon us giving up chocolate, or not eating pizza during Lent. Jesus' love for us does not come with strings attached because Jesus' love for us is unconditional.

You see, Jesus doesn't ask us to give up anything, but maybe we still should. Let's give up complaining. Let's give up wastefulness and greed. Let's give up keeping score and judging others. Let's give up anger, and hatred, and criticism. Let's give up thinking we're better than other people just because they sin differently than we do. Let's give up anything and everything that separates us from God.

But let's not give up on each other. In a world where it is all too easy to turn a blind eye, or get overwhelmed by the tragedy and sadness of this world, let's do our best to support each other. Inspired by Galatians 6:2, let us "[c]arry each other's burdens, and in this way... fulfill the law of Christ."

So, let us give thanks for the ultimate love that washes away our sins, the love of Jesus Christ that exceeds anything that we could ever hope for.

Let us give thanks for the unconditional love that saves us and promises us forgiveness and life everlasting. And let us give thanks for the One who never gives up on us. 



Deacon Diana Auer
Director of Youth & Family Ministry, loves to sing, bake, and spend time with her husband, Matt, and their miniature schnauzer, Ollie.

Thrivent Members

If you haven't already done so, you can still direct 2022 Choice Dollars to the causes that matter most to you. In fact, there are more than 45,000 organizations in our Thrivent Choice catalog from which to choose. Don't miss this opportunity to recommend where Thrivent gives back!

Directing Choice Dollars online is fast and easy. Log in to Thrivent.com or call the contact center at 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" at the prompt. Deadline is March 31.

Redeemer-Bronx Gives Thanks

Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Bronx has been a long time partner in ministry and recipient of Special Missions donations. Pastor and newly appointed Atlantic District President, Reverend Dr. Dien Ashley Taylor, recently provided this update. Also included is information regarding our Atlantic District support.

Thanks be to God for the mission support that Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Garden City has provided to Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church in The Bronx!

Redeemer has been thrilled that the mission dollars have supported our efforts to reach youth with the love of Jesus. Our Youth Catechumenate is in full swing as young people are learning from the Holy Bible and from Luther's Small Catechism as they prepare for baptism and confirmation. Many new youth have been learning to assist in the Liturgies as altar servers. They have sung for worship services and have played handbells and Orff instruments.

Our liturgical dancers also shared their gifts on Christmas Eve (the first time since the pandemic began), and we look forward to their next offering at the end of January. A clothing drive also was conducted with the youth who packed more than 80 yard-size bags of clothing for a neighborhood hospital's outreach to immigrant families. Youth also counted and collated men's underwear products that were collected during Advent for a men's shelter in our neighborhood. The youth also made a nineteen-part video drama that accompanied the in-person Sunday School Christmas program this year; this was the first time that our program had both in-person and pre-recorded video components done exclusively by the young people.

We are excited to share that The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod has selected Redeemer to be a pilot congregation to field

test its "Set Apart to Serve" materials geared at encouraging young people to consider churchwork vocations. Resurrection's support helps Redeemer with these many projects. Redeemer remains profoundly grateful for Resurrection and the partnership we enjoy in Jesus' Name.

An Atlantic District Update:

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection's support of work in and through the LCMS Atlantic District helps the Atlantic District in its mission: "The Atlantic District's congregations, workers, and agencies share God's grace in Christ Jesus to nurture Christians and reach out to others." In doing so, not only have individual congregations received guidance, support, and funds to continue "Engaging the World with the Gospel of Hope" but missionaries have been supported who share the Good News of Jesus with unchurched people.

Baptisms of children, youth, and adults throughout Long Island, New York City, and the rest of the eastern half of New York State proclaim the wonders of God's love in Jesus Christ. Atlantic District missionaries are receiving special training in leadership development and strategic planning for their work.

Two pastoral vacancies have been filled on Long Island (one in Queens and one in Suffolk). The Atlantic District looks forward to hosting the "Festival of Workshops" in March of 2023--the first one since the pandemic began--so that people may be energized with the theme, "Making Disciples for Life."

Resurrection's partnership, support, and prayers continue to help congregations, workers, and agencies in New York to "live loved" by God as we share that love with the world. Thanks be to God for the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection!

Our Lord's blessings to you always!

Peace and hope in Christ,
Dien Ashley Taylor



BUILDING BLOCKS

Stories & News from Resurrection Preschool

Early Literacy

KERRI ANDERSON,
Teacher, Four-Year-Olds

Early literacy skills are essential for a child's success in school. As a parent, there are many ways to help your child develop these skills.

First, read to your child every day. Reading aloud to your child helps them to develop language skills, learn new words and understand the world around them. Make sure to choose books that are age-appropriate and interesting to your child. Let them make choices that they especially enjoy.

Second, talk to your child about the characters, and the pictures. Talking to your child helps them to develop their language skills and better understand the world around them. Ask questions about what they are doing and what they are learning each day. Encourage them to ask questions and express their thoughts and feelings.

Third, provide your child with opportunities to write. Writing helps children to develop their literacy skills and express their thoughts and feelings. Provide them with paper and pencils and encourage them to write stories, draw pictures, practice their letters.

Fourth, encourage your child to explore. Exploring helps children to develop their literacy skills and understand the world around them. Take them to the park, or the zoo. Let them explore and ask questions.

Finally, be patient and encourage learning. Learning new skills can be difficult and frustrating. Be patient and encouraging. Praise them for their efforts and help them to stay motivated.

By following these tips, you can help your child develop their early literacy skills and set them up for success in school.

Member Moment: What Church Has Meant to Me

JOAN ALTMAN

As I think back on the many years of my life as a baptized Christian, my memories go back to our church, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection (LCR). The church has meant so many things to my family and me, as a lifetime member.

LCR has been the foundation of my faith in God, my moral upbringing, and my earthly being. Going to church on Sundays was always and still is what you “just do.” I love hearing the Pastor’s sermon each Sunday as I try to relate it to my own life. It’s reassuring to know that God will forgive my sins (known and unknown), and that through Holy Communion I acknowledge that Jesus Christ died to save me from my sins.

I can list numerous events in my church life that have brought me closer to God and my relationship with Him. I guess you could say that it all started when I was baptized at LCR. I have been very blessed throughout my life, which I credit to having faith in God.

My parents were both baptized Lutherans and devoted to raising me as a Christian which began my relationship with God. I was brought to Sunday School every Sunday and was taught many lessons from the Bible. My original Sunday School started in the basement of the mansion at 420 Stewart Ave., our current church address.



Resurrection’s Sunday School was first held in the basement of the “mansion,” a Tudor home at 420 Stewart Avenue, Garden City.

After the church was built in the ’60s, we would all gather in the gym/parish hall for Sunday School. The church’s Christian Education Building was built in the early ’70s. By then I had received my First Holy Communion and had been Confirmed so I did not get to enjoy Sunday School in the new building. Construction of the Christian Education Building was overseen by my father who spent many hours checking on the progress of the building. He was also very involved in the building of the original church back in the ’60s, overseeing its progress.

I thank God for my parents’ dedication and involvement in LCR as they set the cornerstone for their three children to follow in Christian com-

mitment. My sister, Susan, was a Sunday School teacher. My brother, Richard, would often be found at the church fixing a plumbing problem or as an usher. As for me, I became more involved in the church when I was blessed with my children, Paula and Sandra. I became a VBS Director, then on to an assistant in the Mommy and Me program, and then church Office Manager, followed by various activities and committees associated with the church after retirement.

I thank God for my home away from home. I often wonder what path would have been laid if not for God by my side.

Thank you, dear Jesus!



Love Is in the Air

Valentine's Day has come and gone, but our love for our neighbor continues to carry on here at Resurrection, as our youth and family ministry programs focus on spreading love and kindness within and throughout our community.

Youth Group Meetings

We started off February with our monthly meetings of our three youth groups: our elementary school youth group, the Explorers, as well as our middle and high school youth groups.

Our Explorers started their time together by talking about ways that we can help our community. We talked about the different ways that Resurrection helps people in our neighborhood, and brainstormed some

an individual level, and "challenged" each other to remember to bring a nonperishable food item with them each week when they come to church. We finished our time together by making pizza and decorating Valentine's Day themed cupcakes.



Pizza and cupcakes at Middle School Youth Group

Easter Baskets for New Life Center

With all three groups, we talked about our upcoming outreach opportunity with the New Life Center in Uniondale. Throughout the month of February and the beginning of March, we are collecting specific nonperishable food items to donate to the New Life Center to create Easter Baskets for those in need.

First Communion

On March 1, we look forward to welcoming our 2023 class of First Communion students! We are looking forward to sharing what promises to be a meaningful time in the life and faith of these wonderful young people. Each and every year, the First Communion experience has proven to be a highlight for students, their families, the ministry staff, and the entire faith community at Resurrection.




All smiles from our Explorers

Meal Packing Event

As we continue to look forward and plan for an exciting spring of 2023, we have set a date for our third annual meal packing event! As of 2022, 720 million people in the world don't get the food they need to live a healthy life.

We give thanks for the opportunity to partner, once again, with Rise Against Hunger, and pack thousands of meals to be sent to schools and orphanages around the world. This year, our event will take place on Saturday, June 17, so mark your calendars for what always promises to be an exciting and meaningful event.

We look forward to continuing to find ways to support our community, help those in need, and share the love of Christ with everyone we meet. We give thanks for the encouragement and commitment of our wonderful Resurrection family and the work of the Holy Spirit throughout all of our missions and ministries. 

way that we, as a group, could help as well. We spent the remainder of our meeting painting decorative rocks, and encouraging cards, to send into our community with our weekly donation of nonperishable food to the New Life Center. The kids did a great job making inspiring creations to bring some happiness and cheer to those in need.

We carried this theme into our middle and high school meetings, and had our older kids discuss ways that they could help, on

Based on the most recent statistics, from 2021 to 2022, there was a 38% increase in need for food distribution on Long Island. In addition, 230,000 Long Islanders— including 68,000 children, are considered food insecure, which means that they do not know when or where their next meal will come from.

We give thanks for the New Life Center and their commitment to our community and look forward to being able to provide nonperishable food items to support their Easter Basket collection.

Where's the Vicar Now?

Deacon Ellen Farber contacts Resurrection's fourth vicar, Rev. Jordan Voges, to learn more about where God has led him and his family.

The Vicar countdown continues. Resurrection has been blessed to mentor ten dedicated men, passionate about sharing the Gospel message. Pastor Jordan Voges is no exception.



(above) Rev. Jordan Voges and their son, James; (right) Alyson Voges and their daughter, Aletheia.




Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Warwick, NY. Pastor Jordan Voges was ordained and installed right here in our Atlantic District, on June 27, 2020. Obviously, Covid was no deterrent for God.

Of his wife, Alyson, Pastor Voges says, "Among her many credits and virtues, she is also a talented professional graphic designer." You'll see evidence at the church website: www.goodshepherdwarwick.org.

The Voges family grew in 2021 with James, now two, and in 2022 with the birth of their daughter, Aletheia.

Pastor Jordan and Alyson agree that "parenting is the easiest hardest thing we've ever done. The fact that God has abundantly provided for us certainly helps!"

The year 2022 was also special in that Pr. Jordan graduated, once again, this time with a Master of Sacred Theology. I asked him about his church and ministry. His enthusiastic response: "Leading God's people in the Divine Service is hard to beat! We are working hard to follow Jesus in a world that is changing rapidly. There are plenty of challenges, but this is a wonderful time to be the church!"

In his spare time, Pr. Jordan enjoys working out, reading, and surviving ("not getting whatever illness my children currently have."). If you have the chance, you can visit the Voges family in Warwick, NY. It's only one-and-a-half hours northwest of us! 



Ellen Farber
Serves as a Deacon at Resurrection.

Vicar Jordan came to us as a single young man who was a scholarly-minded student of Divinity. His desire to study Theology was very evident. He brought insight and history to our Bible studies (much like Pastor Browning does). Vicar Jordan's participation in all things Resurrection was a delight for all, especially the Choir, with his resonant baritone voice.

Since his 2016-2017 season at Resurrection, many things have occurred. Vicar Jordan returned to Seminary in the Fall of 2017. While there, he met and courted Alyson Ruffatto. She was there to share his MDiv graduation in May of 2018. Pastor Voges decided to continue his education and his relationship with Alyson. They were married a year later, on June 3, 2019. They have shared a big event every year.

Together, they answered a Divine Call to

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The views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily held by the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. If you have questions or comments about any content, please contact Pastor Browning.

For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

2 Corinthians 1:5

C.S Lewis, author of the Chronicles of Narnia series, once said, "If you want a religion to make you feel really comfortable, I certainly don't recommend Christianity."

I think C.S Lewis understands what Paul is saying in this verse. We as the fellowship of believers, the church, share in the glory of God through our Lord Jesus Christ. But just as the world hated and rejected our Lord, it likewise rejects His message and His people, the church.

To suffer in this world is to imitate Christ, but just as Jesus rose from the dead so will all who trust in Him be raised from the dead and healed from all afflictions and their sins removed from them. That is why Paul writes that we share in Jesus's sufferings, but we also share in His comfort, a comfort beyond any afflictions this world can throw at us.

Any and everything that causes us to suffer will be wiped away, and we will

know the true joy and comfort of God when Jesus comes again.

So, like C.S. Lewis says, Christianity is not a religion that will always feel comfortable during our lives, it won't always be easy. But we have the hope of what's coming next—the hope that even when we suffer in our lives we have the comfort of Jesus and the hope in Him.

VICAR MATTHEW LYNCH



SOLES & SOULS

Turning shoes and clothing into opportunity



Share your love and be sustainable by donating your old footwear.

Tie together or rubber-band pairs of shoes, sneakers, boots, slippers, and drop them in one of our collection boxes.

Collection boxes will be in the Emmet-side lobby and in the gym.

Collection runs through the month of March only.

WORSHIP WITH US

Sundays, Traditional Worship

In-Person — 8:30, 9:45 & 11am

Online — 9:45am

Saturdays, Contemporary Service

In-Person — 5:30pm

COMING NEXT ISSUE

The next *Lamplighter* will be your April/May edition, with news and opportunities to grow in your faith, and to love and serve God and one another. Watch for more news and reflections for Resurrection's 75th Anniversary year-long celebration.